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A Mooring for Jennings

ABC anchor marries producer

Peter Jennings, the ABC evening news anchor, and **Kaycee Freed**, of "20/20" producing duties, tied the knot in Bridgehampton over the weekend. Jennings and Freed have been keeping company for some time.

Both are back at work today. Maybe they'll do the romantic honeymoon bit later? In any case, congrats, you two crazy, impulsive kids.

GOSSIP

Liz Smith

■ **Vanessa Redgrave** and **Eileen Atkins** were brilliant together in the off-Broadway hit "Vita and Virginia" two seasons ago. Now these gifted stars have signed up to re-create their roles for the big screen. (The play was based on the intimate correspondence of **Virginia Woolf** and **Vita Sackville-West**.)

Castle Hill and **Julian Schlossberg** produce. The great **Stanley Donen** is to direct.

Atkins is on the London boards with another dazzling actress, **Maggie Smith**, and both are drawing raves in "A Delicate Balance."

■ The one really startling aspect of ABC's investigative documentary on the Kennedys last week had to be **Tina Sinatra**'s admission that yes, of course, her father knew gangsters: "He was brought up next to them in Hoboken, for one thing." And she was as casual as can be when she said that Sinatra was well aware that **President Kennedy** wanted to use him as a conduit to Chicago mob boss **Sam Giancana**, adding that Frank saw nothing untoward about this request.

Judith Exner, for so long vilified as a prostitute, a gangster's moll and a liar, came off well in her interview. (It was Judith who eventually carried money between Kennedy and Giancana.) It's pretty clear now that Judith wasn't terribly different from a lot of other people who came in contact with JFK – dazzled by his charm and the power of his position. He could ask almost anything of anyone and have it done.

The result of watching this special about the "dark side" of Kennedy – his voracious womanizing, in particular – made me respect and appreciate **Jacqueline Kennedy** all the more. It was she who *really* built the legend of Camelot after JFK's assassination. Whatever her private pain – and you can bet there was plenty – she thought of history and the place of her children's father therein. She brought up **John** and **Caroline** to revere their father.

New York Times

Vanessa Redgrave and Eileen Atkins are taking their off-Broadway "Vita and Virginia" act to the big screen.

■ History happens at New York's City Center on January 21-25. Dance legend **Mikhail Baryshnikov** will perform a full evening of solo pieces, including **Jose Limon**'s "Chaconne," **Mark Morris**' "Three Russian Preludes" and **Kraig Patterson**'s "Tryst."

This is a first for Baryshnikov in the United States, and not bad at all for a ballet dancer on the cusp of his half-century birthday. (A dancer's life is hard. Ballet is brutal.)

■ It is still startling to pick up a ringing phone in my office and have the voice at the other end identify itself as an actual mega-star who has bypassed press reps, the better to get to the heart of the matter. Yesterday it was **Madonna**, who got right down to business: "I hate to disappoint anybody, but the idea that **Elton John** and **Sting** and I were 'feuding' over who would sing in tribute to **Gianni Versace** is simply ludicrous." (As of last night, there was some question as to which of these singers might perform at the Met Costume exhibit, dedicated this year to the murdered designer. Press reports had them at one another's throats.)

Madonna added, with apparent feeling, "I have too much respect for Elton and Sting – not to mention the memory of Gianni – ever to indulge in such petty power plays."

NEWSDAY